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BOOK REVIEWS.

THE ANCIENT HEBREW LAW OF HOMICIDE. By Mayer Sulzberger. Pp. 160. Philadelphia: Julius H. Greenstone. 1915.

HOSHEN HAMISHPAT. JEWISH CODE OF JURISPRUDENCE. By Rabbi J. L. Kadushin. Pp. 190. New York: Published by the Author. 1915.

Judge Sulzberger's book is a careful study of the Biblical texts relating to the law of homicide, and Rabbi Kadushin's an exposition of some of the principles of the commercial and criminal law of the Talmud. The former deals exclusively with the obsolete laws of the early days of the Hebrew state, the latter with laws and customs recorded in the Talmud fifteen hundred years later, a composite of old Hebrew written law and custom and later Jewish judicial legislation, academic discussion and surviving custom, all influenced by contact with the great world of Greek, Roman and Persian legal and social thought. But while Judge Sulzberger's book is a careful, scholarly and thoughtful examination of the sources and a presentation of the results in the form of a tentative hypothesis, the latter book is an unscientific restatement of some principles culled without very careful or discriminating method from the Jewish law code, known as the Hoshen Hamishpat (Breastplate of Judgment). The one book refers with painstaking minuteness to all the sources available, the other does not give a single note of reference or quote a single authority, and apparently expects every statement to be accepted upon the mere dictum of the author. Rabbi Kadushin is, no doubt, well versed in the law of the Talmud, but he has made a book which is scientifically useless because of absence of references by which its statements may be tested. An examination of the sources of some of the subject matter shows that the principles were selected for exposition according to the predilection of the author without regard to their essential importance in the scheme of law of which they form a part. The lack of an index adds to the other faults of the book. Judge Sulzberger's book is devoted to the exposition of the conflict between Canaanite and Hebrew legal principles and endeavors to trace the conflict which finally culminated in 850 B. C. in the complete success of the Hebrew law and the establishment of the principle that homicide is a crime of which public law takes cognizance and not a mere trespass remediable by private vengeance or compensation. It presents a wealth of material for the Biblical and legal student, many new definitions of Hebrew technical terms, and suggestive hypotheses to account for hitherto obscure laws and institutions, for example, the Cities of Refuge and the entire system of retaliation. Judge Sulzberger's book is a reprint of lectures delivered by him before the Dropsie College for Hebrew and Cognate Learning and originally published in the Jewish Quarterly Review. Its excellent indices were made by the publisher, Dr. Greenstone, himself a well-known scholar and writer in this and related fields of learning.

David Werner Amram.